



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 19, 2002

CONTACT: Tracy Dunne
916/445-6687

**GO SERV “SPOTLIGHT”
HONORS CHULA VISTA GROUP**

Group Provides Service During Traumatic Situations

SACRAMENTO - The Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) is showcasing the Chula Vista Citizens Adversity Support Team (CAST). CAST is a group of 50 volunteers who rush to aid victims of trauma and provide compassionate assistance to their families.

“CAST has definitely answered the call to service,” Executive Director of GO SERV, Chuck Supple said. “The dedication shown by CAST volunteers serves as an inspiration to us all and demonstrates the positive power of service in California’s communities.”

Started in 1993, CAST fills a gap that emergency personnel generally cannot fill. Police and firefighters felt another emergency branch was needed because first responders focus on the victim not on the family members. CAST volunteers arrive shortly after first responders and provide a listening ear or a sturdy shoulder for those affected by the traumatic event.

CAST volunteers assist families with the difficult process of making tough decisions after a traumatic event. They also maintain contact with the family and provide support for as long as their help is needed. In order to become a volunteer, potential candidates are enrolled in a 12 week training course and have 75 hours of classroom instruction. To date, CAST volunteers have responded to over 2000 calls and provided over 100,000 hours of service. These hours translate into over a million dollars of services provided by these outstanding volunteers.

GO SERV is proud to feature CAST for their commitment to improve the lives of others through service. The *Spotlight* is a weekly recognition program, honoring community service organizations or individuals involved in community service. *Spotlight* nomination

forms, as well as other volunteer opportunities, are also available on our website. If you or someone you know would like to give back to your community, visit GO SERV's Volunteer Here at www.goserv.ca.gov to find out how you can make a difference in your community.

#